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## THE PALMETTO HERALD

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### THE SCHOOL FOR IDLERS.

BY SIMON PURE.

"Why, brother Miles," asked the President of our one-armed soldier brother, after the school had adjourned to a social capacity, and were smoking and imbibing, luxuriously, "Why, brother Miles, do we never hear from you? Your experience as a soldier would, no doubt, be very profitable to us, and many things might be related of the bloody fields of Pocotaligo, where you lost your arm, which would be very touching or amusing."

Brother Miles replied that the only thing at Pocotaligo, that touched him, was a piece of shell, that tore his arm off, and he didn't think it was very amusing. The life of a soldier, said the brother, though made the most of in romances, and supposed by sentimental young girls, to be very delightful, is but a tedious one. The dismal monotony of camp life on the one hand, and the fearful excitement of an active campaign, on the other, are but poor exchanges for the scenes and amenities of home. The most ridiculous representations of the soldier's career, are some of the gaudily painted pictures, which are for sale at the fancy shops. The ignorance of the designer is strikingly evident, or else the credulity of the public is wonderfully presumed upon. One of these pictures represents a soldier wounded on the field. In the background is the fight raging furiously, heaps of fallen lie about the field, and all seem to be dead but he. To his rescue comes a beautiful *vivandiere* about sixteen years of age, who gives him something to drink. When I went to Pocotaligo, continued Bro. Miles, I didn't see any *vivandieres*. Another of these beautiful pictures represents a company of soldiers, starting off for the war, every man carrying a sword besides his musket, and wearing shoulder-straps. Perhaps it was a representation of A. Ward's company. Another picture represents a soldier dressed in very fine clothes, sleeping with his feet to the fire, his musket and blanket lying by his side; the rest of the regiment are in their tents, but he seems to have a fancy for sleeping outside and catching the "shakes." The moon is shining very brightly, and the flag is flapping in the moonlight. Probably they forgot to take it in, or, it may be, they had "nailed it to the mast."

The brother said his own remarks reminded him that he had a song in his pocket, which he had composed and sang in camp, in his own rough way. On account of the loss of his arm, he was not able to get at the document, but asked the chairman to feel in the southeast corner of his right-hand pocket. The honorable brother did so, and the following was produced:

#### THE FLAG AT SUNSET.

With drum-beat and life-note,  
Advance the color guard;  
For the golden sun has left his post,  
And night is pressing hard,  
And the banner floats from dewy dawn  
Until the day is done;  
For we never lower the bonny flag,  
But to the setting sun.

At sunset the gun booms,—  
The bugle sings adieu,  
To the golden sun and purple clouds,  
The fields and sky of blue;  
And the banner leaves its glidy height,  
Whene'er the day is done.

Though we never lower the bonny flag  
But to the setting sun.

With strong voice and heart-voice,  
The soldier sings at eve,—  
For the night comes to weary limbs,  
From toil a kind reprieve;  
He sings the banner bright that floats  
Until the day is done,  
And swears to lower the bonny flag,  
But to the setting sun.

Let foes come and death come  
To stare us in the face,—  
We'll meet the one with shot and shell,  
The other with a grace;  
But never while a mau remains  
To fire an evening gun,  
Shall any say we lowered the flag  
But to the setting sun.

### FROM OUR EXTRA OF SATURDAY.

#### IMPORTANT CHANGES.

We briefly announced the arrival of Maj.-Gen. J. G. Foster, to take command of the Department, in our regular edition. On the same day he assumed command, and announced his Staff; the orders will be found elsewhere.

Gen. Foster's abilities and experience are too well known to soldiers everywhere to need recounting here. He has proved an able General wherever he has been, and has a rare faculty of making himself beloved by his troops. Some of the regiments in the Department have served under him before, and rejoice at his arrival here.

Brig.-Gen. John P. Hatch, whose assignment to the command of the Department was only intended to be temporary, has been announced as commander of the District, and has assumed command in the following order:

HEADQUARTERS, U. S. FORCES, HILTON HEAD, FORT PELABEL, ST. HELENA AND TYBEE ISLANDS, HILTON HEAD, S. C., May 27, 1864. GENERAL ORDERS, No. 17. In compliance with General Orders, No. 76, Headquarters Department of the South, the undersigned hereby assumes command of this District.

The following officers are announced on his staff:

MAJOR E. L. ROGERS, 104th P. V., A. A. General.

CAPT. H. Y. PICKERING, A. A. Inspector General.

1ST LIEUT. E. B. VAN WINKLE, 103d N. Y. Vols., A. D. C.

1ST LIEUT. DANIEL G. McMARTIN, 21st C. T., A. D. C.

Jno. P. HATCH,

Brig.-Gen. Com'g District

Brig.-Gen. Birney and Brig.-Gen. Potter will, doubtless, be assigned important commands, but they have not yet been made public.

#### EXPEDITION UP THE ASHEPOO RIVER.

On Wednesday last Brig.-Gen. Birney, commanding the District, with his usual activity, went on an expedition up the Ashepoos River, with several transports, a gunboat, and a considerable force of cavalry and infantry, under orders from General Hatch.

Arriving from several directions, the boats were to rendezvous during the night at Bennett's Point, at the mouth of the Musquito Creek. Gen. Birney had the armed steamer Plato, Captain R. I. Getty, for his flag steamer. Nearly all the boats arrived at the proper place in good time, ready to land a portion of the troops. But the Mary A. Boardman, Captain Graffam, loaded with troops, got aground on Combahee Bar. Some difficulty being found in getting her off, General Birney took the troops out of the Edwin Lewis, placing some on the flag-boat, and the balance on the Croton.

He then directed the Edwin Lewis to go down and take the troops off the Boardman. Ascertaining that the pilot of the Lewis was not very familiar with the channels, Wm. C. Mandel, pilot of the Plato, was sent down to the Boardman, with orders to pilot the Lewis up the river,

he being perfectly familiar with all the channels.

The Lewis was ordered to proceed to Bennett's Point, and the Boston, which had just come up, and had on board a portion of the 4th Mass. Cavalry and other troops, under command of Col. Montgomery, was ordered to follow her.

Mandel, the pilot, instead of obeying his orders, reported that he had been sent down to get the Mary Boardman off, went on board her, and stayed there. The Edwin Lewis proceeded up the river under direction of her own pilot, passed Bennett's Point where the river turns at almost a right angle, and kept on up the stream. After going several miles, a rebel sentry on board hailed them; the hail was answered and the boat kept on. Another hail farther on was answered in the same way, but still the Edwin Lewis kept on her course, till she had proceeded some six or eight miles, and some obstructions had been passed. It was judged that as his boat was very light draught, the other boats could not have passed over the obstructions, and the Edwin Lewis put about. In going down the river they found the Boston ashore near where a rebel battery was located.

In the meantime Gen. Birney had landed some of his troops. When he received news of the Boston's condition, he withdrew to the landing, considering it to be his first duty to save the Boston, if possible, and the troops and property on board her.

At day light the rebels opened on the Boston with much energy. One shot struck the safe, went through Captain Faircloth's room and into the boiler. The Boston, a volunteer, displayed great coolness and bravery, and the troops were landed on the marsh and marched a mile and a half down the shore. The men showed good discipline and great pluck.

Capt. P. F. Young, A. D. C., was sent up with the Plato to aid the Boston, if possible. When over a mile from the Boston she got aground. She immediately opened on the battery with shells from a rifled gun, which was worked very effectively, the shells, however, falling short. After firing about an hour and a half the Plato got off, but in the meantime the gunboat Dai Ching, Capt. Chaplin, had come up and shelled the rebel battery vigorously.

The Boston was hit about seventy times, with solid shot from three small rifled pieces. She had two men of the 34th U. S. C. T. killed. Six who jumped overboard were drowned, several were wounded, and some horses killed. Capt. Young, when it was found that the boat was to be destroyed, made strong effort to save the colors, but could not succeed.

On the Plato, Wm. Herbert, of the 3d R. I. Artillery, while putting a shell in a gun, was severely injured by a premature explosion. The fuse of the shell was ignited, but Herbert, with commendable presence of mind, threw the shell overboard and it burst in the water. The sponge of the gun was blown overboard, and another member of the 3d R. I., recovered it by swimming 200 yards at the risk of his life.

The troops, officers and crew were taken off the Boston, many escaping by swimming, but it was found impossible to save the horses. When the condition of the steamer was reported to General Birney, he reluctantly gave the order to have her burned, considering that she was too much damaged to be got off, and that it would be impossible to save her under a fire from a shore battery which could be easily strengthened.

Capt. Chas. B. Fessenden, Jr., A. D. C., was sent up with a skiff to set her on fire, and successfully performed the duty.

Much valuable property belonging to the Government, with the personal effects

of the crew, and her officers' money and papers were destroyed.

The Boston was a fine boat, which has long been doing good service in the Department. She was formerly on the line between Boston and Bangor. Her loss will be much felt in the Quartermaster's Department and by the public, but her destruction is believed to have been a military necessity, after the mistakes committed, had placed her where she was. We do not understand that the least blame rests on Capt. Faircloth, who seems to have done all in his power to save his steamer.

The Boston having been destroyed, the expedition returned.

Mandel was put in irons, and will doubtless be tried for wilful disobedience of orders.

We have given what we believe to be a correct narrative of the expedition, so far as it goes, obtained from sources which should be reliable. We abstain from any criticisms, as out of our province, leaving the matter where it belongs, in the hands of the military court which we understand will investigate all the circumstances.

Besides the staff officers above mentioned, General Birney was accompanied by Captain Hennessy, District Inspector; Lieut. Geo. A. Fisher as Chief Signal Officer, and Lieut. Thomas Carrique, also of the Signal Corps, Captain John C. Dutch, of the Navy, Volunteer Aide, and Ensign Niel, of the Navy, Chief of Armed Transports, all of whom did efficient service and deserve much credit.

#### LATER FROM THE NORTH.

The steamer Beaufort arrived here

our special messenger yesterday. Our special messenger yesterday, towards us New York papers of the 23d, and a letter from which we extract the following in regard to the 10th Army Corps:—"Since the 10th Army Corps landed at Bermuda Hundreds it has been engaged in constant and severe fighting, and it has come out of the ordeal with great honor and an enviable reputation. It has never been beaten. It has lost nearly three thousand men since it arrived, and has made most gallant fights. Col. White, 55th Penn., is a prisoner; Col. Osborn, 39th Ill., is wounded; ditto the Lieut.-Colonel, Major and Adjutant of the regiment, and a host of good men."

The latest news at Fortress Monroe was to the effect that Gen. Grant had succeeded in turning Lee's flank; that Lee was retreating toward Richmond, closely followed by Meade and Grant; and that Gen. Butler had fallen back toward Fortress Monroe.

Following are the latest dispatches in the papers of the 23d.

WAR DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, May 22—10 P. M.—To Major General Dix:—"On Friday evening General Grant commenced a movement for the purpose of compelling Lee to abandon his position at Spottsylvania (the details of which, for obvious reasons, should not be made public.) It has thus far progressed successfully. Longstreet's corps started South at one o'clock Friday night, an hour and a half after Hancock moved. Ewell's corps followed Longstreet last night. The indications are that the rebel army has fallen back beyond the North Anna. Hoke's brigade has joined Lee.

The movement of General Grant has thus far been accomplished without any severe engagement or serious interruption. We now occupy Guinness Station, and south of the Mattapony on that line. No despatches have been received to-day from Gen. Butler. Despatches from Kingston, Ga., state that Gen. Sherman's forces are resting and replenishing their supplies. EDWIN M. STANTON, Secretary of War.

[CONTINUED ON FOURTH PAGE.]